

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 00603 172210Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----080090 172214Z /65
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EXDIS

REF: GABORONE 2988

1. DURING RECENT VISIT OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR PAYTON AND AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR GAYMON, OCCASION AROSE TO REVIEW PEACE CORPS STAFFING IN BLS COUNTRIES. DISCUSSION TURNED TO QUESTIONS OF USDN PEACE CORPS STAFFING AND THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REPORTED REFTEL.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF THE PEACE CORPS DOCTOR, THEY WERE NOT AWARE THAT INCUMBENT'S PREDECESSOR HAD RECOMMENDED HIS POSITION BE ABOLISHED, THAT ALL THREE PEACE CORPS COUNTRY DIRECTORS AGREED, ETC.; THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION UPON RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. AS TO ADMIN OFFICER WATSON'S POSITION IN MBABANE, THEIR REACTION WAS TO TAKE ISSUE WITH PEACE CORPS COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION AND THAT OF WATSON HIMSELF THAT HIS POSITION COULD BE ELIMINATED BY DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITIES TO A LOCAL EMPLOYEE. IN ADDITION, PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS PROMPTLY LEVIED NEW RESPONSIBILITIES ON WATSON (E.G., TO SUBMIT MONTHLY REPORT) THEREBY GIVING HIS POSITION NEW CONTENT. AS A RESULT, PEACE
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CORPS/SWAZILAND DIRECTOR HARRISON HAS WITHDRAWN SUGGESTION REFTEL, PARA 3, THAT WATSON'S IS LOW PRIORITY POSITION. THIS CHANGE SHOULD BE NOTED.

4. COMMENT: SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES AS WELL AS COMMON COURTESY SEEMED TO REQUIRE FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION ON PC/C STAFFING WITH VISITING DIRECTOR.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT NO ORGANIZATION LIKES
TO HEAR THAT IT MAY HAVE PERSONNEL THAT ARE EXCESS
TO ITS NEEDS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEIR FIRST CONCERN
DOES NOT SEEM TO BE THE PRESIDENT'S SPIRIT OF
AUSTERITY (AS REFLECTED IN HIS OCTOBER 25 LETTER)
BUT RATHER WITH MANDATE TO DEVELOP AND EXPAND
INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS. THE PEACE CORPS DOCTOR POSITION
REMAINS VULNERABLE BUT IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFULLY
ELIMINATED THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY.
NORLAND

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